



**Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council**  
**1011 E. Tudor Road, Mail Stop 201**  
**Anchorage, Alaska 99503**  
**Toll-Free 1-877-229-2344**

For Immediate Release:  
May 7, 2004

Contact: Fred Armstrong (907) 786-3887  
Mike Wade (907) 443-2479 (Nome)

### **2004 Subsistence Migratory Bird Harvest Season - Simplified**

This is the first full season for the Spring/Summer Subsistence Migratory Bird Harvest administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The objectives of this harvest were to legally recognize the practice of subsistence bird harvesting, but not to create any new customs and traditions and not cause significant increases in the take of migratory birds. Public regulations booklets were mailed in April to all post office box holders within the Seward Peninsula/ Norton Sound region. We've received numerous questions this year regarding the harvest and want to highlight these responses:

#### **Are hunting licences and duck stamps required?**

Yes, they all are. All waterfowl hunters 16 years or older are required to have a current State and Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp. The 2003/2004 duck stamp is now only available by calling toll-free: **1-800-852-4897** or online at <http://www.duckstamp.com>. The 2004/2005 Federal stamps will be available in post offices starting in July. Federal and State stamps are not required for hunting non-waterfowl species. State stamps are valid only for July 1 through January 31 of the following year, so they would only be needed when hunting waterfowl during July 1 through August 31.

#### **Can I use any gun to hunt birds?**

Shot guns (10 gauge or smaller) are most commonly used, but you must possess and use only non-toxic shot. Be careful not to shoot while on or across any roads or highways.

#### **Can I take birds just for the skin and feathers?**

You may harvest birds for human food use only, using nonwasteful taking practices. Nonedible parts of birds taken for food may be used for other purposes such as making traditional arts and handicrafts, taxidermy of birds (life-like mounts) is not permitted. The sale of birds or bird parts, including handicrafts incorporating them is prohibited. Harvested birds or their parts may also not be shipped to friends or relatives living outside the general hunt area (eg. they should not be shipped to Fairbanks-Northstar Borough, Anchorage and Matanuska-Susitna Boroughs, or to the Kenai Peninsula and much of the Gulf of Alaska Roaded system).

### **Why is the hunt closed for a month starting in mid-June?**

Under the Migratory Bird Treaty signed with Japan, any spring/summer harvest must have a provision to protect nesting birds. So, all subsistence hunts are closed for a minimum of 30-days during the peak of the nesting season. **For the Stebbins/St. Michaels area, the closure is June 15- July 15; and for the remainder of the Bering Straits/Seward Peninsula region, the closure is June 15-July 15 for waterfowl and July 20-August 20 for all other birds.**

### **How do I continue subsistence bird hunting after August 31?**

The official subsistence migratory bird harvest closes on August 31. Any hunting of waterfowl or cranes can be done from Sept. 1 through Dec. 16 under the State's Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations. Be aware that harvesting under this system does have daily bag and possession limits.

### **How can I change these regulations?**

Proposals are accepted from Nov. 1 through Dec. 15 of each year to change the harvest regulations. The proposal form is available online or by calling toll-free 1-877-229-2344. These proposals will be reviewed and considered by the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council at their spring meeting. The Council is made up of representatives from the Alaska Native community, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service acting as equal partners. More information on the history and make-up of the Council, as well as hunter information, past harvest data, and public meeting announcements, can be found online at <http://alaska.fws.gov/ambcc/index.htm>.

---

*Partner Members: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Alaska Department of Fish & Game, Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association, Bristol Bay Native Association, Association of Village Council Presidents, Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes, Copper River Native Association, Chugach Regional Resources commission, Kodiak Area Native Association, Kawerak Inc, Maniilaq Association, North Slope Borough, Tanana Chiefs Conference*